

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2465 South Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, CO 81401**

**Decision Record**

**(DOI-BLM-CO-S054-2013-0036 DNA)**

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE: North Rim Integrated Vegetation Management Plan, Phase 4 Implementation

DECISION: It is my decision to continue to implement the North Rim Integrated Vegetation Management Plan; specifically 436 acres (map 1) of young piñon juniper woodland will be hydro-axed and seeded with native grasses and forbs described in Table 1 to increase herbaceous ground cover and to promote accelerated sagebrush community development. The existing sagebrush and mountain shrub community will be avoided to the greatest extent practicable.

- Follow appropriate design features listed in the North Rim Integrated Vegetation Management Plan, Environmental Assessment number DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2011-0007 EA.
- Follow the vegetation treatment objectives (Sage Grouse Emphasis Area) outlined in the DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2011-0007 EA will be followed.
- All project activities will occur well after the nesting and brood rearing season to ensure all young of the year bird species potentially occurring within the project area could effectively move and avoid operating equipment. Project dates as planned will be September 15- December 31. Depending on conditions (e.g. drought), project dates may be delayed further to ensure that equipment does not potentially cause a wildland fire.
- Seeding activities will occur between November 15 and December 31.
- All heavy equipment will be power washed before entering public lands. This includes all lowboys hauling heavy equipment.
- Treatment areas will be inventoried for noxious and invasive weeds prior to treatment.
- All noxious and invasive weeds will be treated before and after treatment has occurred.

**Table 1 Proposed Seed Mix for Project**

Code	Common	Cultivar	Genus	species	Lbs PLS/acre
ELEL5	BOTTLEBRUSH SQUIRRELTAIL	State Bridge	ELYMUS	elymoides	2.5
ACHY	INDIAN RICEGRASS	rimrock	ACHNATHERUM	hymenoides	3
POSE	SANDBURG BLUEGRASS	UP	POA	secunda	0.5
PECY	BLUESTEM PENSTEMON	UP	PENSTEMON	cyanocaulis	0.25
HEBO	NORTHERN (UTAH) SWEETVETCH	TIMP	HEDYSARUM	boreale	0.3
LILEL2	LEWIS FLAX	Maple Grove	LINUM	lewisii spp. Lewesii	0.5
SEMU	Multilobed groundsel	UP	SENECIO	multilobata	0.25
ACLA	WESTERN YARROW	UP	ACHILLEA	millefolium	0.25
<b>Total PLS #/acre</b>					<b>7.55</b>

**MITIGATION MEASURES:** Mitigation beyond the Design Features shown in EA DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2011-0007 is not needed.

#### MONITORING:

The project manager will ensure compliance with design features when implementing the project.

The completed projects will be mapped using a Geographic Positioning System (GPS). A photo point(s) will also be established prior to commencing the project.

The proposed project will be monitored at intervals (currently 2 years and 5 years following treatment) identified by the Uncompahgre Field Office vegetation treatment monitoring protocol.

Monitor project sites for the spread of weeds, and spot treat as needed for a three-year (minimum) period.

Monitor all areas of soil surface disturbance for signs of accelerated soil erosion. Monitoring will occur for a minimum of three years or until disturbed soils are stabilized by established vegetation.

**RATIONALE:** This project is in compliance with the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area RMP. The Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having significant effect on the human environment. The proposed action will continue to implement the North Rim Integrated Vegetation Management Plan. The project serves to improve habitat suitability for Gunnison Sage-grouse within the project area.



COMPLIANCE WITH MAJOR LAWS: The decision is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policy, including the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared for EA # DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2011-0007 EA (North Rim Integrated Vegetation Management Plan), based on the information contained in that EA and consideration of criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27). The conclusion in that FONSI, dated July 11, 2011, remains valid, and a new FONSI does not need to be prepared. It is my determination that: 1) the implementation of the proposed action will not have significant environmental impacts; 2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the Gunnison Gorge NCA Resource Management Plan; and 3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

APPEALS: Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right of appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.400. Appeal and stay procedures are outlined in Form CO-050-1842-1.

NAME OF PREPARER: Ken Holsinger

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Sticklaume

DATE 10-22-2013

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Jerry Strahan

Jerry Strahan  
Field Manager Acting  
Uncompahgre Field Office

DATE SIGNED

10/23/13



# North Rim Gunnison Sage-grouse Healthy Lands Initiative Implemented Projects 2010-2012 & Proposed 2013-2014 Project Area

- Legend**
- 2013 Proposed Project Area (436 Acres)
  - North Rim Integrated Management Projects 2010-2012
  - 2010
  - 2011
  - 2012
  - National Conservation Areas
  - Land Ownership
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - National Park Service
  - Private
  - BLM Wilderness

